

Message Text

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SUBJ: 1976 UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. 1976 UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OPENED MORNING MAY 17 WITH REPORT BY CHAIRMAN HANS CONZETT (SWITZERLAND) ON RECENT VISITS TO BANGLADESH, JAPAN, GUATEMALA, AND VENEZUELA. HE CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENED ROLE FOR UNICEF WITH MORE DYNAMIC ACTION AND SAID A GREAT DEAL REMAINED TO BE DONE FOR CHILDREN. IN PARTICULAR HE REFERRED TO UNICEF'S PLANS FOR BASIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WHICH HE SAW AS A PIVOTAL ROLE FOR UNICEF.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LABOUISSSE IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT ALLUDED TO HIS GENERAL PROGRESS REPORT AND SAID HE WOULD SPEAK BRIEFLY TO UPDATE REPORT. NOTING DOWNWARD TREND IN CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN HAD BEEN SLOWED, HE SAID THERE STILL VERY LONG WAY TO GO. MENTIONING THE STUDY ON BASIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN PREPARED BY UNICEF SECRETARIAT, HE SAID THAT COSTS WAS SURELY WITHIN THE WORLD'S CAPACITY AND THAT RECURRING COSTS MUST, WITHIN REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, BE BEARABLE BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE URGED INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

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E. ON INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (IYC) LABOUISSSE SAID DRAFT REPORT NOW WITH SYG. HE NOTED GROWING SUPPORT FOR 1979 FOR IYC AND DECLARED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT WAS CRUCIAL AND THAT THERE WAS HIGH PROBABILITY YEAR WOULD BE HELD. HE WARNED OF NEED FOR FULL SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS; OTHERWISE, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT REPEAT NOT TO HOLD YEAR AT ALL. HE ALSO REITERATED NEED FOR ASSURED FINANCIAL RESOURCES BEFORE UNGA VOTED FOR YEAR.

4. LABOUISSSE REPORTED UNICEF GIVING FULL COOPERATION TO UN COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING. HE APPROVED OF FACT UNICEF WAS EXCLUDED FROM INCLUSION IN RESTRUCTURING AND SAID HE SUPPORTED SYG'S STRESS ON DANGER OF SWEEPING CHANGE; IT WAS BETTER TO BUILD FROM STRENGTH.

5. LABOUISSSE SAID FINANCIAL STATUS OF UNICEF WAS SOUND, NOTED TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS LAST YEAR REPRESENTED REAL INCREASE OF ONLY 7 PERCENT BECAUSE OF INFLATION. HE APPEALED FOR MEMBERS TO MAKE RESOUNDING SUCCESS OF NEXT NOVEMBER PLEDGING CONFERENCE.

6. SWEDEN, THAILAND, CANADA, AND UNITED STATES SPOKE IN MORNING SESSION. SWEDES SAID THEY WOULD SUPPORT UNICEF GOAL OF \$200 MILLION INCOME IF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS INCREASED THEIR GIVING. CANADIANS SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON BASIC SERVICES BUT UTTERED NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS(AS HAD SWEDES), SUCH AS LACK OF FIRM PRIORITIES, QUESTION OF OVER-EXTENSION, AND FAILURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EXISTING SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND VALUES.

7. US REP (SCELSI) SPOKE LAST IN MORNING (SPEECH BEING POUCHED). ASIDE FROM PRAISE FOR UNICEF PROGRESS, SPEECH TOUCHED ON NEED FOR EMPHASIS ON ROLE OF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN HIGHER POSITIONS IN UNICEF, SUPPORT FOR EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS, SUPPORT FOR FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES, INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING, AND INSISTENCE THAT UNICEF PROGRAMS IN ALL COUNTRIES MEET ESTABLISHED UNICEF PROCEDURES.

8. AFTERNOON SESSION BROUGHT SPEECHES BY SWISS, FRENCH, UNCLASSIFIED

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WEST GERMAN, SOVIET, INDONESIAN, AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC DELEGATES. SOVIET DELEGATE OPENED WITH LONG SECTION ON NECESSITY FOR PEACE, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, WORLD DETENTE, AND PRAISED UNICEF FOR WORKING FOR PEACE. HE CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE TO INDONCHINA, ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND OTHER RECENTLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES.

9. JUST BEFORE CONCLUSION AFTERNOON SESSION, CHAIRMAN

CONZETT CALLED FOR ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN OF PROGRAM
COMMITTEE TO FILL OUT TERM ENDING JULY 1976 OF FORMER
INDIAN DELEGATE LUTHRA. HE SUGGESTED MISS ZAGORKA ILIC
OF YUGOSLAVIA; THERE BEING NO OBJECTIONS HE ANNOUNCED
HER SLECTION. FYI. MISS ILIC HAS SEVERAL YEARS
EXPERIENCE ON UNICEF DELEGATIONS AND HAS BEEN HELPFUL
TO U.S. DELEGATION IN PAST. END FYI.

10. MEETING APPEARS TO BE GOING WELL WITH NO REPEAT
NO PROBLEMS OF ANY MAGNITUDE FORESEEN AT THIS POINT.
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